

Message

---

**From:** Contreras, Peter [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3C7E515833814B74A7EBAFCFEF8B6322-CONTRERAS, PETER]  
**Sent:** 1/23/2020 5:03:03 PM  
**To:** Martinson, Mathew [Martinson.Mathew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Kenknight, Jeff [Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Matt -- RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hi Matt: Left you a voice mail. Here's my suggestion:

Requestor excerpt ... "has the EPA reviewed the petition? Is there an initial reaction from the EPA? And is the EPA aware of all of the activity that NOWA and the State are doing to work on a number of water-related issues in the Umatilla Basin?"

**Background response:** EPA has not reviewed the petition and it's 1000+ pages of appendices submitted on January 16, 2020. However, EPA is aware of the Ground Water Management Agency and the important role GWMAs play in supporting assessment and management of ground water resources by state and local stakeholders. EPA does not currently have an active role in the Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA.

Contacts: Mat Martinson, WD, Jeff Kenknight, ECAD

FYI ODEQ Website Reference:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/GWP-Management-Areas.aspx>

Thanks,

Peter



Peter Contreras, Chief  
Field, Data & Drinking Water Enforcement Section  
Water Enforcement & Field Branch (20C-04)  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
Seattle, WA (206) 553-6708

---

---

**From:** Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:20 AM  
**To:** Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>; Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Thank you.  
--Cindy, x. 1815

---

**From:** Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 6:46 PM  
**To:** Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Yes. I have another urgent matter I'm dealing with in the morning too, but this is a priority.

*Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE*  
CAPT, USPHS  
Branch Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch  
U.S. EPA, Region 10  
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)

---

**From:** Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Mat, how about we talk in the morning?

Thanks,

Peter

On Jan 22, 2020, at 5:05 PM, Kowalski, Edward <Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov> wrote:

Edward J. Kowalski  
Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
EPA Region 10  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-6695

---

**From:** Kowalski, Edward  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:25 PM  
**To:** Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Cindy, to date, we've been jointly working the issue with the Water Division. I will forward it and leave it to Peter and Matt to decide who should respond. Thanks.

Edward J. Kowalski  
Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
EPA Region 10  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-6695

---

**From:** Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:56 PM  
**To:** Kowalski, Edward <Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Schuster, Cindy <[Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov](mailto:Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hi Ed, I understand that your office is the one that can help with a response to this congressional inquiry. It does not need to be formal. Please let me know if I should work with one of your staff members.

Also, Ed and Marianne, since we are in the midst of preparing for budget hearings, do you think this is something that needs a budget briefing paper?

Cindy, x. 1815

---

**From:** Billman, Tucker <[Tucker.Billman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tucker.Billman@mail.house.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:05 PM

**To:** Schuster, Cindy <[Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov](mailto:Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hey Cindy!

Thank you for taking my call today. Again, I had just wrapped up a call with Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA) before calling you. They have a lot of concerns about the long standing impacts of this petition, and were hoping I could get some information from you all on.

Here is the article I mentioned when we spoke today:

[https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/activists-petition-epa-to-step-in-on-groundwater-emergency-in/article\\_d7588b8a-38b3-11ea-b6c9-672ddf79c426.html](https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/activists-petition-epa-to-step-in-on-groundwater-emergency-in/article_d7588b8a-38b3-11ea-b6c9-672ddf79c426.html)

NOWA's concern is pretty well laid out in this article. I was really just hoping for some background on EPA's end – has the EPA reviewed the petition? Is there an initial reaction from the EPA? And is the EPA aware of all of the activity that NOWA and the State are doing to work on a number of water-related issues in the Umatilla Basin?

Whatever information you can share is most helpful!

Thanks,

Tucker

Tucker Billman  
Congressman Greg Walden's Eastern Oregon Office  
1211 Washington Ave.,  
La Grande, OR 97850  
541-624-2400  
[Tucker.billman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tucker.billman@mail.house.gov)  
<https://walden.house.gov/>